

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated antigenic composition, which composition comprises

(i) a first antigen, which first antigen comprises at least part of an isolated protein of *Streptococcus equi* subsp *equi*, which protein is designated EAG and which at least part of said protein comprises at least one antigenic epitope or antigenic determinant of *Streptococcus equi*, and

which first antigen comprises at least the N-terminal amino acid sequence of EAG, which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,

(ii) a second antigen, which second antigen comprises at least part of an isolated protein of *Streptococcus equi*, which protein is designated SEC and comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, and which at least part of said protein comprises at least one antigenic epitope or antigenic determinant of *Streptococcus equi*, and

which second antigen comprises at least the N-terminal collagen-binding part of SEC which comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acids 2-303 in SEQ ID NO:22, and

(iii) a third antigen, which third antigen comprises at least part of an isolated protein of *Streptococcus equi*, which protein is designated Sc1C and comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:23 and which at least part of said protein comprises at least one antigenic epitope or antigenic determinant of *Streptococcus equi*, and

which third antigen comprises at least the immunogenic fragment of Sc1C, which fragment comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acids 2-233 in SEQ ID NO:27.

2. (Currently Amended) The isolated antigenic composition of claim 1, wherein said antigens ~~are comprised of~~ consist of the N-terminal part of EAG in accordance with claim 1 (i), the collagen-binding part of SEC in accordance with claim 1 (ii), which collagen binding part comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acids 2-303 in SEQ ID NO:22 and the immunogenic fragment of Sc1C in accordance with claim 1 (iii), which fragment is designated SCL C1 and provokes production of antibodies, and which fragment comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acids 2-233 in SEQ ID NO:27.

3. (Currently Amended) The isolated antigenic composition of claim 1, wherein said collagen binding part of SEC comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acids 2-590 in SEQ ID NO:20 and is designated SEC2.16.

4. (Currently Amended) The isolated antigenic composition of claim 1, wherein said third antigen ~~is comprised of~~ consists of SCL C1 comprising the amino acid sequence of amino acids 2-233 in SEQ ID NO: 27.

5. (Currently Amended) The isolated antigenic composition of claim 1, which (iv) comprises at least one further antigen that comprises an isolated protein

Streptococcus equi or a part of said protein, which part comprises at least one antigenic epitope or antigenic determinant of *Streptococcus equi*, and which protein is selected from the group consisting of

- (a) an isolated protein designated FNZ which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or an N-terminal fibronectin-binding part of FNZ comprising the amino acid sequence of amino acids 4-309 in SEQ ID NO:13, and
- (b) an isolated protein designated SFS which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 or a part of SFS comprising the amino acid sequence of amino acids 3-121 in SEQ ID NO:10 .

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A vaccine~~ An immunizing composition, which comprises the antigenic composition of claim 1 as an immunizing component, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~vaccine~~ immunizing composition of claim 7, which further comprises an adjuvant.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~vaccine~~ immunizing composition of claim 7, which is

provided in a physiologically administrable form and suitably is administrable by subcutaneous or intranasal inoculation.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A method for preparation of ~~a vaccine~~ an immunizing composition for ~~protecting immunizing~~ non-human mammals against infection of *Streptococcus equi*, which ~~vaccine immunizing~~ composition contains the antigenic composition of claim 1, which antigenic composition comprises antigens, which antigens are prepared in accordance with a method comprising the following steps:

- (a) providing a DNA fragment encoding said antigen and introducing said fragment into an expression vector;
- (b) introducing said vector, which contains said DNA fragment, into a compatible host cell;
- (c) culturing said host cell provided in step (b) under conditions required for expression of the antigen encoded by said DNA fragment; and
- (d) isolating the expressed antigen from the cultured host cell, and, optionally,
- (e) purifying the isolated product from step (d) by affinity chromatography or other chromatographic methods known in the art and
 - which method comprises mixing said antigenic composition with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for preparation of ~~a vaccine~~ an immunizing composition, which ~~vaccine~~ contains as immunizing component, an antigenic composition of claim 1, said method comprising mixing said antigenic composition and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) A method for the production of an antiserum, said method comprising administering an antigenic preparation of claim 1 to an animal host to produce antibodies in said animal host and recovering antiserum containing said antibodies produced in said animal host.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~prophylactic~~ immunizing or therapeutic treatment of *S. equi* infection in non-human mammals, ~~suitably horses~~, comprising administering to said mammal an immunologically effective amount of ~~a vaccine~~ the immunizing composition of claim 7.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~protecting~~ immunizing horses against *Streptococcus equi* infection, which comprises inoculating a horse ~~subcutaneously or intranasally~~ with ~~a vaccine~~ the immunizing composition of claim 7 to induce an immune response against *Streptococcus equi* in said horse.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein an immune response in the form of IgG and/or IgA and/or IgM antibodies in the nasopharyngeal mucus is induced in said horse.

19. (Withdrawn) Monoclonal antibodies against antigen(s) of the composition of claim 1.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) The vaccine immunizing composition of claim 7, which further comprises an adjuvant.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of *S. equi* infection in non-human mammals, comprising administering to said mammal an immunologically effective amount of an antiserum produced according to claim 15.

23. (New) The immunizing composition of claim 7 which reduces severity of *S. equi* infection in non-human mammals.

24. (New) The method of claim 16, where the non-human mammals comprise horses.

25. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the horse is inoculated subcutaneously or intranasally.